

# Nebraska Book Festival

Weitz Community Engagement Center, University of Nebraska at Omaha

6001 Dodge Street, Room 115, Omaha, Nebraska

## PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

**Saturday: April 25, 2015**

**WORKSHOPS 9:30-11:30 a.m.**

[Lucy Adkins](#): "Poetry and Inspiration: Imaginative Ways to Write Your Best"

[Mary Avidano](#): "Poems by You." Attendees are invited to bring a poem they've written.

Traci Robison: "From Draft to Digital: How to Prepare and What to Expect as a Self-Publisher"

[Laura Wiseman](#): "You're No Body Until Some Body Loves You: Writing the Body"

**READINGS 12 noon-3:30 p.m.**

[Mark Langan](#), *Busting Bad Guys: My True Crime Stories of Bookies, Drug Dealers and Ladies of the Night* (MTL838, LLC) ... 12-12:30

[Marsha Davis](#), *One Man's Voice* (Foxhill Books) ....12:30-1

15 minute break

Sydney Olson, *The Curse of the Fates* (XLIBRIS) ... 1:15-1:45

John Price, *The Tallgrass Prairie Reader* (University Of Iowa Press)... 1:45-2:15

15 minute break

[Timothy Schaffert](#), *The Swan Gondola: A Novel* (Riverhead)... 2:30-3:00

Karen Shoemaker, *The Meaning of Names* (Red Hen Press)... 3-3:30

**PRESENTATION: Mildred Bennett Award... 3:30**

**RECEPTION: 3:45- 5:00**

## **Workshop Bios:**

### **Lucy Adkins:**

Lucy Adkins' poetry has been published in journals which include *Midwest Quarterly*, *Red Wheelbarrow*, *Rhino*, *South Dakota Review*, *Concho River Review*, and the anthologies *Woven on the Wind*, *Times of Sorrow/Times of Grace*, *Crazy Woman Creek*, and the *Poets Against the War* anthology. Besides her poetry chapbook, *One Life Shining: Addie Finch, Farmwife*, which appeared in 2007, she also co-authored a book of non-fiction, *Writing in Community: Say Goodbye to Writer's Block and Transform Your Life* which was published in April, 2013.

### **Mary Avidano:**

Mary Avidano, a retired pastor who is "still preaching," published her first chapbook in 2008, called *THE ZEBRA'S FRIEND & OTHER POEMS*. Mary's poems have appeared in *NEBRASKA LIFE*, in a few literary journals, and in *THE UNTIDY SEASON*, an anthology of Nebraska women poets, published by The Backwaters Press in 2013. Mary's poem "City Lights" was featured in Ted Kooser's column "American Life in Poetry" in 2014. She is the author of *IN THE HOUSE OF I AM*, a memoir of her early life, released in 2014. Mary and her husband Ray live at Elgin, Nebraska.

### **Marsha Davis:**

Marsha Davis was born and raised in rural Iowa. She moved to Colorado in 1967 and – with detours to Tours, France, and Lawrence, Kansas, – continues to call Colorado home. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Colorado and a master's degree from Colorado State University. After a thirty year career in education as a teacher and administrator, she retired in 2005 and has returned to her first loves: research, history, and travel. In addition to her career in education, she has also been a textbook editor and a television writer/editor/producer. She is the recipient of a Fulbright Memorial Fund Scholarship, a Telly Award, and multiple Excellence in Journalism awards. *One Man's Voice* is her first book. It has been a life changing endeavor and has taught her much about people and the places they call home. Marsha lives in Greeley, Colorado. When free time presents itself, she bikes, golfs, shares coffee with friends, and plans her next trip.

### **Mark Langan:**

Mark Langan retired in 2004 from a 26-year career with the Omaha Police Department. He was awarded the department's two highest honors....the Distinguished Service Medal and the Medal of Valor. During his career Mark infiltrated high-level narcotics operations while posing as both a drug user and a drug dealer, and also supervised hundreds of high-risk investigations. Mark is now Vice-President of Field Operations for the Nebraska Humane Society and supervises the investigations of crimes against animals. Mark's book, *Busting Bad Guys*, is an Amazon Best Seller and chronicles the many interesting stories of Mark's career.

### **Timothy Schaffert:**

Timothy Schaffert is the author of five novels, most recently *THE SWAN GONDOLA* (Riverhead/Penguin). His work has been a Barnes & Noble Discover Great Writers selection, a New York Times Sunday Book Review Editors' Choice, a winner of the Nebraska Book Award, and an Oprah.com Book of the Week. He's a professor of English at University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and a film adaptation of his first novel is in development.

**Laura Madeline Wiseman:**

Laura Madeline Wiseman is the author of twenty books and chapbooks and the editor of *Women Write Resistance: Poets Resist Gender Violence* (Hyacinth Girl Press). Her recent books are *Wake* (Aldrich Press), *Drink* (BlazeVOX), and *The Hunger of the Cheeky Sisters: Ten Tales* (Les Femmes Folles Books) with artist Lauren Rinaldi. Her work has appeared in *Prairie Schooner*, *Margie*, *Mid-American Review*, and *Feminist Studies*. She teaches English and Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.  
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